



From the Chairman

A new year, our fourth, for Painted Dog Conservation Inc and a revised direction and commitment!

I would like to thank the Committee of last year consisting, John Lemon, May Core, Dick Watson, Marnie Taggart, Jon Keates, Helen Pitman, Mark Tyler, Rosemary Markham and Peter Wood for helping me.

Marnie, Helen and Jon will not be continuing this year and we shall miss their inputs and wish them well for the future. We therefore have two vacancies and if any of you would like to actively contribute please contact either myself or John.

For the past 4 years we have solely concentrated on providing support to the Painted Dog Conservation Project in Zimbabwe and through the many generous donations some \$30,000AUD has been put to two of their conservation programmes of Rehabilitation and Anti poaching.

This year at our first meeting in February, the Committee has voted to investigate and include two new projects one in Zambia and the other in Namibia. (Briefing in the following pages).

Following our enquiries, we have since provided telemetry equipment to both projects and replacement textbooks for Zambia which had its campsite flooded with subsequent loss of equipment etc. Also we have sent two used PC laptops to Zambia for use by new staff.

These laptops were very kindly donated by McLernon's Supply and Demand in Welshpool through an agreement negotiated by myself.

Further at the AGM to be held at the East Fremantle Yacht Club along with a dinner and auction, we will be asking members to vote on a name change to more

correctly reflect what we stand for.

Our website is being redeveloped by a very talented person in Clare Williams and the Committee recently reviewed its development.

Additionally we are in the advanced stages of preparation of a Business Plan for 2007/2008 and I can advise that we have also developed our mission and goals stated below;

PDC Inc has as its mission:

To develop PDC Inc into an increasingly effective organisation in:

- Provision of resources and facilities to support research into *Lycaon pictus*, aka African Wild Dog
- Conservation of *Lycaon pictus*, aka African Wild Dog with particular emphasis on threat prevention
- Education of the wider community on dogs and related wildlife issues
- Treatment and care of sick or injured dogs and the rehabilitation of such dogs back into their natural environment
- Increasing in the range states the population of *Lycaon pictus*, aka African Wild Dog

With this mission in mind, PDC Inc has identified the following goals:

- To develop the capability of PDCInc facilities, processes and people to become a highly proficient, professional and effective organisation
- To provide tools to in-situ researchers for proven conservation programs through crisis management, rehabilitation and reintroduction of *Lycaon pictus* to natural habitats in range states within Africa

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From the Chairman (continued)

- To assist implementation of educational programs that will better equip local communities in the management of habitat and educate the general public in the conservation needs of *Lycaon pictus* and the wildlife
- To establish and sustain appropriate standards of corporate governance that ensure:
 - Effective planning
 - Financial responsibility
 - Transparency and accountability

With our new direction and affirming our mission and goals we are looking to substantially improve our position and assistance to our nominated projects. Your commitment to us is invaluable.

Erratum; in our last newsletter I wrongly named our auditor, Dean Withers, and take this opportunity to apologise and thank Dean for all his work in certifying our accounts.

On 2 May we broke the mould and conducted a meeting for members at Zebra's Steakhouse Restaurant. There were 44 members, partners and friends. It was a full house. The meeting briefed members on our new direction and also introduced the two projects which we have included in our support. During the course of the evening we had a brief firesale of merchandise and other items conducted by Nicholas Duncan, thanks Nicholas. Towards the end of the events we received a donation of \$1,000.00 for which we are very grateful.

I am currently in Zimbabwe at the project and will be here for twelve weeks, returning on 1 August. John and his wife, Angela, will be joining Robin Lines in Namibia to capture and collar Dog packs in the Kalahari sandveld in July and August. As we have already included a story of the Namibian project I would just like to make mention that members will hear more of John and Ang's adventures in the next newsletter.

Progress, construction, on facilities here in Zimbabwe has been slow over the past twelve months, however, I am pleased to report that the Visitor Centre is almost complete with the interpretive hall displays now mounted and viewed on 16 May, by Wildlife Conservation Network members and donors. The opening is programmed for August.

Work on the Clinic and Laboratory for which we have provided approximately one-third of the cost has not progressed as much as we would have hoped, although with the imminent completion of the Visitors Centre those resources will be moved to complete the construction of this facility.

I was privileged to view with the WCN contingent a play done by the schoolchildren attending one of the many free courses at the Bush Camp which tells the story of "Eyespot" and poaching.

The project recently took delivery of two landrovers, one new and the other donated by the Predator Conservation Trust. The total fleet is now twelve.

This may seem a lot but it needs to be remembered that each vehicle is allocated to a programme, i.e. Research, (tracking) 2, Anti poaching 2, Bush Camp 2, Visitor Centre 1, Community education and Outreach 3, Office 2. However, it is common due to the age of the vehicles that only about two-thirds of the fleet are operational at any given time. Currently there are two vehicles requiring repairs that are unserviceable.

Our AGM will be held on 21 September, a preliminary advice will be posted during June. This initial advice is to obtain numbers for the AGM and the dinner that will follow and I urge you to support the association. A discount is available for group bookings of 10 or more and wine will be offered on each table, which is included in the cost. A formal notice of the AGM will be issued during August.

Please use the return envelope to confirm your attendance/s. Note, attendance at the AGM, members only, is at no cost, you will only need to pay if you are also attending the dinner.

Merchandise currently held has been reduced and now is a good time to get a bargain. Please email John at lemonj@ozemail.com.au to find out more

Lastly, thanks to all our members for their support last year and my appreciation to those members that have renewed their membership for 2007.

Below: Photos of the Visitors Centre.



African Wild Dog Conservation, Zambia

AWDC commenced conservation research in 1999 in the Lower Zambezi National Park, recognising the need to understand the plight of the African Wild Dog to ensure its survival and ultimately to conserve vital habitat for this and other species in the region. In 2000, AWDC received not-for-profit status under the Zambian Societies Act, allowing the organisation to commence international fundraising efforts to support this vital research.

AWDC has since expanded its study area from the Lower Zambezi National Park, through connecting Game Management Areas into the South Luangwa National

Park. Work is now centred on establishing a large population of wild dogs in Eastern Zambia throughout this protected area network, in partnership with the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA).

AWDC's Goals

1. To safeguard the African wild dog and its habitat in Zambia through scientific research, community education and conservation activities.
2. To utilise the endangered African wild dog as a flagship species for large scale habitat conservation, which in turn will benefit many other species.
3. To provide information and recommendations to the Zambia Wildlife Authority, and support them in all efforts to safeguard the future of wild dog habitat and protected areas.
4. To increase knowledge and understanding of the African wild dog and contribute to the conservation of the species as a whole.
5. To build capacity within local Zambian organisations and government bodies for the sustainable conservation of the African wild dog and its habitat.

Dr Kellie Leigh, Project Director/ Founder

After completing her undergraduate Honours degree in Environmental Biology at the University of Technology in Sydney Kellie moved to Zambia and worked as a safari guide in the Lower Zambezi Valley, while looking to establish a research project.

In 1999 Kellie commenced full-time research, education and



conservation work on the African wild dogs and subsequently founded AWDC. She later completed her PhD on the Ecology and Conservation Biology of African wild dogs through University of Sydney; her key fields of research expertise include population genetics, wild dog behaviour and demography, and spatial ecology.

Today, Kellie is Directing AWDC's expansion of project activities into eastern Zambia, with the support of WWF-Netherlands and the Zambia Wildlife Authority.

Namibian Wild Dog Project, Namibia

The Namibian Wild Dog Project (WDP) has its origins in the communal cattle and small-stock farming Herero community in eastern Namibia. This area is part of the central Kalahari system, a semi-arid savanna with no perennial surface water. People and their livestock are restricted to the western areas with boreholes and pipelines, and to the few ephemeral drainage lines that flow eastwards towards the Okavango system

in Botswana. Large areas in the east are uninhabited or with very low population density (mean $<0.5 \text{ km}^2$). It is thought that this area supports a significant population of African wild dogs, but very little data is available as substantial research on wild dogs in this area, as with the rest of the country, is deficient.

The project's aim is to better understand the interactions between wild dogs and humans and to find ways of mitigating

the conflict while researching other threats to wild dog conservation in Namibia. The WDP looks to link social and ecological approaches to conservation, working closely with people - ultimately trying to find ways of optimising benefits from African wild dogs through tourism, while understanding their ecology and conservation threats within the actual and potential conflict zone.



Objectives:

- Research human-wild dog conflict in farming communities;
- Collect baseline data on other factors affecting wild dog conservation;
- Develop & implement education and awareness projects reducing human-wild conflict;
- Develop & implement incentive-driven initiatives (tourism) for wild dogs;
- Develop a National Management Plan for Namibia's wild dog population.

Left: Robin Lines (centre) from WDP.

African Ground Hornbill

Bucorvus leadbeateri

Physical Characteristics

The ground hornbills are the only ground dwellers among hornbills. The large bill characteristic of the Bucerotidae family may be why hornbills are the only birds with the first two neck vertebrae (axis and atlas) fused together.

Hornbills are notable for their long eyelashes and rather stubby legs and toes, with broad soles and the bases of the three front toes partly fused. The African Ground hornbill's throat skin is inflatable, and sometimes inflates when it makes its guttural call.

Distribution and Habitat

The African ground hornbill, *Bucorvus leadbeateri*, inhabits the African savannah south of the equator. Ground hornbills prefer steppes and savannas with a fairly low grass growth, which makes the search for food easier. They have very large territories of about 100 sq. kilometres.

In South Africa there has been a large decline in their numbers for a number of reasons. They are popular to use as "muti" or tribal medicine among some of the indigenous people of South Africa. The brain of a ground hornbill, if kept in a village, is reputed to bring the village luck. Irrate homeowners kill them because they will attack windows, breaking them, if they encounter their reflections. They are also vulnerable to picking up poison baits that are set out for predators.

Diet

The African ground hornbill's food consists largely of small vertebrates and larger insects, although they sometimes use their pick-like bills to subdue prey as large as hares, tortoises, snakes and squirrels.

Reproduction and Growth

Ground hornbills are slow breeding and do not reach maturity until they are 4 years old and then only one pair from each group breeds.

Ground hornbills need thick trees for their nests. They are the only hornbills



which do not wall in their nest holes. The female does not seal the nest although she sits throughout incubation and is fed in the nest by the male. She also does not completely moult as smaller hornbill species do. She moults in steps so that she is still able to fly.

The clutch consists of two eggs and is incubated by the female for about a month. Only one baby from each clutch is raised. The second chick dies within days of hatching because of unsuccessful competition from the first chick that hatches in getting food from the parents. The remaining chick remains in the nest for three months and is fed by the parents for an additional nine months. The chick remains with the family unit until they reach sexual maturity.

Most hornbills are monogamous. In species such as the African ground hornbill, cooperative breeding has developed in which some individuals, usually males, although sexually mature, do not breed but help a dominant pair to rear their young.

African Folklore

The Masai believe that the African ground hornbill should never be killed because it will bring bad luck. If one lands on

the roof of a house, the occupants must move at once or they believe death will ensue.

Aside from many indigenous tribes in South Africa using the ground hornbill for "muti" (tribal medicine), there are others in Africa who believe that the African ground hornbill is a rain prophet.

Status

They are listed as vulnerable in South Africa as they have disappeared from large areas where they have occurred in the past. They now occur only in reserves. There were at last estimate about 720 birds in the Kruger National Park, which is South Africa's largest reserve.

Currently there is a conservation project underway in South Africa, in which the second chick from a nest is taken before it dies and raised and released to help increase their numbers.

Lilac Breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

Physical Characteristics

The washed green head is large, the neck is short, the greenish yellow legs are rather short and the feet are small. The beak is strong, arched and hooked-tipped. The tail is narrow and of medium length. The back and scapulars are brown. The shoulder of the wing, outer webs of the flight feathers and the rump are all violet. The bases of the primaries and their coverts are pale greenish blue and the outer tail feathers are elongated and blackish. The chin is whitish, shading to rich lilac of the breast. The under parts are greenish blue. The bill is black and the eyes are brown. It has large wings and strong flight. The sexes are alike.

Distribution and Habitat

Found in grasslands, open woods and regions where palm trees grow singly.

The species ranges more or less continuously throughout eastern and southern Africa from the Red Sea coasts of Ethiopia and northwest Somalia to the Angola coast and northern South Africa. Lilac Breasted Rollers inhabit acacia country with well spaced trees, rolling bushy game lands, riverside areas and cultivated land, but they do not associate with human habitation.

Diet

The Lilac Breasted Roller feeds on grasshoppers, beetles, occasionally lizards, crabs, and small amphibians. They take prey from the ground.

Reproduction and Growth

They make unlined nests in natural tree holes or in termite hills. Sometimes they take over woodpecker's or kingfisher's nest holes. They lay 2-4 white eggs, which are incubated by both sexes for 22-24 days. At 19 days the chicks are fully feathered and grayish brown.

Behaviour

Rollers get their name from their impressive courtship flight, a fast, shallow dive from considerable elevation with a rolling or fast rocking motion, accompanied by loud raucous calls.

All rollers appear to be monogamous and highly territorial. The Lilac Breasted Roller will perch on a dead tree, surveying the area for prey. One typical aspect of its behavior is that it also preys on animals fleeing from bush fires. It is a swift flier, indulging in acrobatics during the breeding season. They actually breed 'on the wing'. They live in pairs or small groups, but are often seen alone.

Their call is a loud harsh squawk, 'zaak'. They are partly migratory, but in some areas they are sedentary. To feed they swoop down from an elevated perch next to their prey and eat it on the ground or return to a perch where they batter it before swallowing it whole. They



are territorial, also defending temporarily small feeding territories; hence individuals are regularly spaced along roads. They drive off many species from near their nest hole, even after breeding.

Status

Most abundant in east Kenya but it is common throughout most of its range.

Membership Update

Please welcome the following new members to our association:

Judy Lynne WA,	Maree Lawson WA,
Kathryn Pasternak VA USA,	Daniel Scarparolo WA,
Sophia Spencer WA,	Samantha Carson WA,
Terry Speers WA,	Tammara Olds WA,
Rebecca Chriss WA,	Janet Gamble QLD and
Amanda Ash WA.	

We now have a total of 174 members:

Australia – 158 (WA – 130, Interstate – 28),
Canada – 1, France – 1, Germany – 2, India – 2, UK – 4,
USA – 5, Zimbabwe – 1



AFRICAN SAFARI

Your Holiday of a Lifetime!

Indulge in a guided 10-day Pleasure or Painting Safari to the magnificent Victoria Falls and visit the famous Hwange and Chobe National Parks.

21 July – 30 July or 4 August – 12 August 2007*

An incredible opportunity to see one of the world's seven natural wonders and visit two of the most spectacular and unspoiled game parks in Africa for only AU\$3495. Price includes all accommodation, transport to and from the camps, meals, professional guides and National Park fees. \$500 from every booking goes to Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

Please phone Jenny Preston on 0404 489 716 or John Lemon on 9474 0304 for more information.



Brief Itinerary

- Day 1** Johannesburg to Ganda Lodge (location of the Painted Dog Project)
- Day 2** Visit the PDC Education centre and participate in a snare sweep.
- Day 3** Hwange Safari Lodge.
- Day 4** Hwange National Park, home of the 'Big 5' - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo.
- Day 5** Hwange National Park and Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and Africa's Adventure Capital.
- Day 6** Visit the Victoria Falls, 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' – The Smoke That Thunders.
- Day 7** Chobe National Park.
- Day 8** Various activities.
- Day 9** Victoria Falls Hotel.
- Day 10** Transport to the airport and farewell to a continent you will remember forever.

Painting on Safari

- Day 1** Sketch at Waterhole during our evening drive
- Day 2** Sketch the Dogs during our tour of the project.
- Day 3** Draw or paint whatever awaits you at the Safari Lodge waterhole and see the local Painted Dog craftsmen at work on their art.
- Day 4** Early morning painting to capture the African skies.
- Day 5** A sketching session at the Hide Tree House.
- Day 6** Sketch or paint the Zambezi River and its Ilala Palms and river life with one of Zimbabwe's renowned artists.
- Day 7** Take your sketch pads with you on your trip to the Chobe National Park.
- Day 8** Draw the stunning trees of Africa.
- Day 9** A tour of the markets and Craft Village will enable you to capture your memories in some quick sketches.

*Tour is available in December 2007, if there is interest.

Kelmscott Primary School Support for Painted Dogs

On 23 February 2007 a group of teachers congregated at Perth Zoo to participate in the Teacher Zoo Snoozzz Professional Development Program. Perth Zoo's Acting Curator of Australian Fauna, John Lemon, was invited as a special guest to share the story of Painted Dog Conservation Inc (PDC Inc) during the evening program. As usual, John's presentation inspired others and evoked a great deal of discussion long after his presentation ended.

One teacher was so inspired that she returned to her Year 4/5 class at Kelmscott Primary School to do some inspiring of her own! Tanael Boydell's students have since been immersed in painted dog conservation as part of their learning program — and the enthusiasm has continued to spread.

Harnessing their zeal, Tanael brought her students to Perth Zoo on 11 May to observe the Zoo's Painted Dog pack. To further enhance their learning, students participated in an African Savannah Education Experience with the Perth Zoo Education Team.

While these young minds were excited to see the animals and learn all about Africa with Education Officer Lyndsay Fairclough, the moment they were truly waiting for was to meet John Lemon.

Why was this so important to them?

Despite these students being only nine and ten years old, they had some serious questions and knew only a painted dog conservation expert could answer them. Even John was amazed at how much the students had already learnt about this endangered African species. After John's presentation, they were able to build on their own knowledge and understanding and, judging by the discussions that followed, you could say that PDC Inc now has some new experts eager to be ambassadors for the species. Thanks to John, they also have a fabric PDC patch to proudly display and reflect their passion for their mission.

The Year 4 students have now returned to Kelmscott Primary School with a plan to raise funds for PDC Inc and assist this endangered animal and the communities surrounding its home range. They have already gained approval from their school



principal to sell PDC Inc merchandise and have come up with some ideas about which merchandise they think would sell best. They have also planned ways to educate others about Painted Dogs and PDC Inc.

An inspiring presentation from John Lemon has sparked the enthusiasm of one teacher and her class of 30 students into taking conservation action for Painted Dogs. It is rewarding to see such commitment from a local school that has clearly discovered a great connection that goes beyond their classroom door.

by Perth Zoo Education Officer and PDC Member Sophia Spencer.



Gallery Plus and PDC Inc

PDC Inc is pleased to introduce Ric and Leeza Colman, owners of Gallery Plus situated in Canning Vale. Ric and Leeza have kindly offered to sell our merchandise in their store.

Ric was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in 1950. He schooled at Kingsdale Primary until the age of ten, then he and his family moved to Singapore for three months before moving to Perth.

Ric's father was a Chicken farmer in Zimbabwe, but turned his hand to his life passion of cabinet making once in Australia. Ric's passions include landscape and wildlife photography and Africa as a whole.

If you wish to purchase PDC Inc merchandise or need a superior framing job done, please drop into their store on the corner of Bannister and South Street in Canning Vale. They are open from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am-12.00pm on Saturday.



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Conservation through action and education

For the Diary

25 June

Presentation by John Lemon for PEAC students at Perth Zoo on African Painted Dog Behaviour.

August

Committee Meeting

8 September

PDC Inc to attend the Riding for the Disabled State Games at Fairbridge Village Pinjarra from 8am-4pm. We will be selling merchandise, interacting with attendees in the Dog suit and doing facepainting for all the children.

21 September

Annual General Meeting and Fundraising Dinner at East Fremantle Yacht Club.

October

Committee Meeting

Would You Like To Help?

The project in Zimbabwe does NOT receive any government assistance and is wholly reliant on donations to continue its operations.

The key factor in retaining the workers from the local communities – both skilled and unskilled who are classed as staff – is to have sufficient funding available to pay them a reasonable wage.

Please consider a donation for the work to continue.

All donations received are put without deduction to the benefit of the African Painted Dog.

The Object of the Association is:

To advance conservation for the public benefit of the African Painted Dog, (also referred to as a Wild Dog) *Lycaon pictus*, through education promoting and disseminating research into such conservation and seeking to achieve their sustainable management.

Find us on the Web
www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au
pdcinc@iinet.net.au



Here's What to Do

Forward a cheque or money order (within Australia) made payable to:

**Painted Dog Conservation Inc
C/- The Treasurer
10 Blackboy Way
Morangup WA 6083**

Credit cards (Overseas and Australia): We can accept either Visa or Mastercard. Please tear off the slip below and forward to the Treasurer, whose address appears above.

Credit Card Transaction

Please note that PDC Inc does not recommend provision of credit card details via email, and will not request them.

Name:

Address:

Credit Card Type: Visa / Mastercard

Card Number.....Expiry Date.....

Name on Card.....

Amount:.....\$AUD / \$USD Signature:.....

Please note that the entry on your statement will be "Chris & Marge McClelland, Oxley".

Australian Residents: Donations or gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.